



# The Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina

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## Annual Convention 2022 Nominees for Elected Leadership Positions

### Open Positions:

- The Episcopal Foundation of WNC (3-year term): 2 Adult Lay Communicants
- The Executive Council of the Diocese (3-year term): 1 Adult Lay Communicant from each of the following Deaneries: Asheville, Foothills, Piedmont, Western; 1 Clergy from each of the following Deaneries: Mountain, Piedmont
- Standing Committee (4-year term): 1 Adult Lay Communicant; 1 Clergy
- Deputy to General Convention 2024: 4 Adult Lay Communicants; 4 Clergy
- Trustees of the Diocese: 1 Adult Lay Communicant for a 5-year term; 1 Adult Lay Communicant to fill an unfilled 3-year term.
- Trustees of the University of the South: 1 Clergy to fill a 3-year term (July 1, 2023 - October, 2026)

### Nominees for Foundation – no nominees

### Nominees for Executive Council

#### Lay Position for Western Deanery



**Michael E. Lodico** is a long-time member of Grace Church in the Mountains in Waynesville. He has served two full terms on the Grace Vestry (2010-2012 and 2020-2022) and served one year (2016) to finish out an unexpired term. He has been actively involved in Grace Church's adult formation program, has chaired the church's Outreach Committee, and has been a Vestry co-chair of the Administration Committee. He has served as Junior Warden (2021) and Senior Warden (2022). He also served three years on the Grace Stewardship Education Committee. He is eager to promote stronger connections between the diocese and individual parishes. As senior warden he has appreciated the support from the diocese as Grace Church in the Mountains as addresses much-needed renovations to its building. He sees the need to help laypersons understand the interdependency of

parishes and the diocese, and to see the diocese as a partner in ministry. Originally from Elmira, New York, Michael has an undergraduate degree in English from Cornell University, and masters and doctoral degrees from Western Carolina University. He taught high school English and Latin in Haywood County for 20 years. He then worked as an administrator at Asheville High School and Asheville City Schools Central Office for ten years, retiring in 2009.

*No nominees for Lay Position from the Asheville, Foothills or Piedmont Deanery.  
No nominees for Clergy Position from the Mountain or Piedmont Deanery.*

### **Nominees for Standing Committee - Lay Position**



**Jane Schronce**, a member of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Lincolnton for more than forty years, Jane has been active in the diocese as a member of Executive Council, a discernment consultant, and as a member of a variety of committees such as Strategic Planning, Mission and Structure, Diocesan Dreaming, Congregational Vitality, and Funding and Function. She served on the Transition Committees for Bishop Taylor as well as Bishop José. Jane has served several terms on the Lake Logan Board of Directors.



**Matilda Kistler** is a lifelong Episcopalian and has been a member of this Diocese for over 35 years. She has served on the National, Diocese, and local church levels in many capacities, including as a prior member of the Standing Committee. In the wider church, Matilda was elected and attended as a Deputy to six General Conventions. She served as a liaison for Dispatch of Business and as Chair of the State of the Church Committee. Matilda also had the distinct honor of serving on the Committee to Confirm the Election of Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. In our Diocese, Matilda has served, in addition to the Standing Committee, on the Executive Committee, Foundation Board, Bishop Search Committee, and several Capital Campaigns. Matilda was President of the Board of Directors of Deerfield Episcopal Retirement Community during its first expansion. Matilda has attended numerous Diocesan Conventions as a delegate. At Grace Church, Morganton, Matilda has served on the Vestry as a member, and as Senior and Junior Wardens. She has assisted with the Children's Sunday school program, served as interim administrative assistant, Priest Search Committee, Grace Foundation Board and Advisory Committee and on the Altar Guild for 35 years. She is currently chair of the Altar Guild. Matilda is willing to serve again and assist in any way possible on this Committee. The knowledge and history of this Diocese that Matilda has amassed over these years will be invaluable to the Committee.



**Nancie Wilson** has been an active member in the Diocese of Western North Carolina for many years. She served on Diocese of WNC Executive Council for two separate terms (2012-2014 and 2020-2022). She served as a prior member of the Standing Committee (2015-2018) and on the Commission on Ministry (2017-present). Nancie received her B.A. in Psychology from the University of Central Florida and her M.A. in Psychology from the University of Central Florida. Nancie retired in December

2009 as Instructor of Psychology at Southwestern Community College. She is currently teaching Psychology online part-time for Southwestern Community College. Nancie currently serves as Lay Reader and Chalice Bearer at St. David's, Cullowhee.

### **Nominees for Standing Committee - Clergy Position**



**The Rev. Susan Buchanan** has served as Rector of St. James in Lenoir since August 2017. She brings 28 years of parish ministry experience in three different dioceses. As a member of the Diocese of Western North Carolina since 2017, she has served a term on the Executive Council and as a Clergy Deputy to General Convention. She believes that she would bring a good background of diverse experience to the work of the Standing Committee. She graduated from Virginia Seminary in 1994. Along with her work here, she also served three terms as a Deputy to General Convention from New Hampshire. She has served on the Commission on Ministry (NH), the Parish Youth Ministries program (VA), UTO Grant Committee (VA), and was appointed to the

Constitution and Canons Committee (VA). She served the Diocese of VA as the director of the summer seminarian training program, and also was chaplain for one week each summer at the diocesan camp. Alongside her parish work in NH she also worked in the local hospital for 11 years as chaplain in an Alzheimer's care unit. In Lenoir she has been a leader in working for racial reconciliation, working with lay leadership building bridges between historically black churches and the congregation at St. James. Besides working to build personal relationships, St. James has provided support and opportunity for almost 100 residents of Lenoir (from 7 different churches) to take the Sacred Ground course. She and one of the lay leaders were recognized for this work by the local NAACP at the Martin Luther King celebration in 2022.

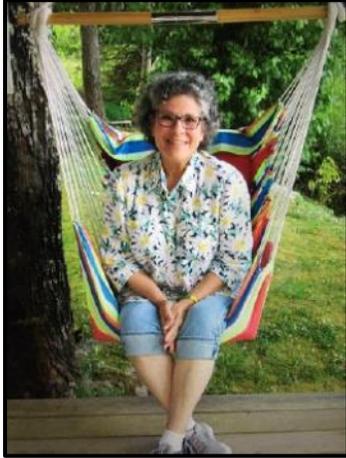


**The Rev. Elizabeth Roles** is the 12th rector of St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Brevard. She delights in the shared life of the church community in good times and hard times, playing, celebrating, making decisions together, serving, and sometimes facing conflict. And in this common life, together being transformed more and more into the likeness of Christ. She holds a Master of Divinity from Candler School of Theology at Emory University and a Diploma in Anglican Studies from the General Theological Seminary. Previously she served in the Diocese of Arizona and the Diocese of Atlanta. Born and raised in West Virginia, she feels right at home in Western North Carolina and seeks to serve the people of this Diocese as a clergy member of the Standing Committee.

### **Nominees for Deputy to General Convention 2024 – Lay Position**



**Jada Bryson** is a member of All Saints Episcopal Church in Franklin, NC since birth. Jada was very active in local and diocesan levels of the church from a young age. She served as an acolyte, served on youth council, and as a camp counselor. Jada has served on the Lake Logan Board of Directors. Currently, Jada is a member of the Commission on Ministry and the Building Beloved Community Commission. At All Saints, Jada has served two terms on vestry, the first during the transition of combining St. Agnes and St. Cyprians into All Saints. The second term during the last two years 2020 and 2021 she served as junior warden and senior warden. Jada has a BA from UNC Asheville in Theatre Design and Production and a Minor in Dance in 2007. She has been working as a dance teacher since 2010 and co-founded the Dance Arts-Co Op a nonprofit dance school in 2021. She loves all things creative, along with dance she works as a longarm quilter and sews for a company from home. Jada participated in the Wisdom School with Cynthia Bourgeault (2012-2013). Jada is excited to be starting her practice in Spiritual Direction and will be graduating from the Haden Institute in January 2023.



**Elizabeth "Betsy" Brewer Biega** is a member of Trinity, Spruce Pine. She has served on committees in the dioceses of Upper South Carolina, Arkansas and Western North Carolina. Betsy served as an Alternate Deputy to General Convention in Austin 2018 and most recently as a Deputy at General Convention in Baltimore 2022. She was a member of the Transition Team for the election of Bishop José McLoughlin. Betsy would be honored to serve the Diocese of Western North Carolina as Deputy to General Convention 2024.



**Jacquie Dunbar** grew up in Portland, Tennessee and attended the University of Tennessee where she acquired a Masters in Public Health. She worked as a Health Educator, going on to coordinate Health Education in public schools, eventually training teachers, counselors, and principals. Jacquie finished her active work life as the Director of Student Services for Iredell County, retiring in 2009. Jacquie's search for a welcoming church led her to St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Boone where she found an accepting and inclusive community and has been an active member for over 20 years. Her deep love of St. Luke's was sealed when they asked her

to teach Journey to Adulthood and entrusted her with this ministry, a role she could not envision holding from her earlier church experience. Jacquie has served St. Luke's in many capacities including: Vestry (currently serving as Sr. Warden), Search Committee for Rector, Leader of Women's Group, Chalice Bearer, Lay Eucharistic Visitor, Threshold Singers, J2A Leader, Pastoral Care and Meals of Love, and work with Boone Mennonite Brethren Church in dismantling racism. At the Diocesan level, she has served as a delegate to Diocesan Convention and now serves on the Standing Committee. Jacquie has a rich love for the Episcopal Church. She is a strong leader and is eager to be involved more deeply at the churchwide level, bringing her perspective as shaped by ministry in the Diocese of Western North Carolina and the High Country, and to learn from our collective experiences. Jacquie has time and energy to give to this work, making the commitment to attend all gatherings, and if elected, looks forward to working with our bishop, Bishop José, as well as other lay and ordained deputies.



**Gordon Hamilton**, a member of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Tryon, NC, and he would be honored to serve as Deputy to the General Convention in 2024. Gordon recently served as a Deputy to General Convention 2022. Gordon appreciated the experience as a good introduction of the governance of the Episcopal Church, including the opportunity to track proposed legislation through the committee process via on-line streams and watching as these actions were taken to the House of Deputies floor was an invaluable experience. Gordon is a big supporter of many diocesan ministries and programs especially those related to the Beloved Community and Truth Telling, Reconciliation and Healing. Gordon has over 30 years of experience as a City Planner for the cities of Los Angeles and Pasadena and is very familiar with the deliberative process. Six of the years in Los Angeles were in the capacity of Legislative Analyst for the City Council and 13 years as a Liaison to the City Council and Mayor's office. As a City Planner, Gordon worked with issues related to affordable housing, economic development, homelessness, land use conflict resolution and environmental sustainability. Many of the Episcopal church concerns are matters that he has experienced in his career at different times. Since retiring to North Carolina in 2015, Gordon has been involved with the Episcopal church and other non-profits, including on the Vestries of Holy Cross and Good Shepherd churches. Gordon is also in his second year as a member to the WNC Diocese Executive Council.

### **Nominees for Deputy to General Convention 2024 – Clergy Position**

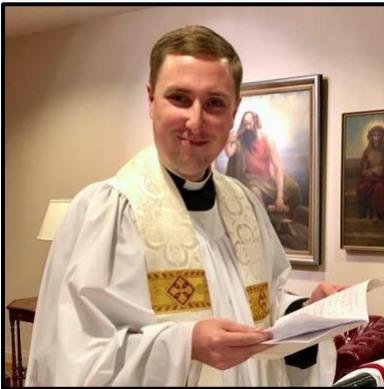


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**The Rev. Gaelyn Evangreene** is the rector of St. David's in Cullowhee having previously served at Grace Waynesville. She serves on the Executive Council for the Diocese of Western North Carolina for the Western Deanery. Prior to the priesthood Gaelyn was a Nationally Board Certified public school teacher. She is a proud alum of Haywood Community College (A.A.S. Horticulture), the University of North Carolina at Asheville (B.A. Sociology with K-6 licensure), and Virginia Theological Seminary (M.Div.) Her thesis: Planning the Proclamation: Increasing Scriptural Literacy Through Preaching combined her specialty in curriculum writing from

her years of teaching with homiletics. Gaelyn is an Associate for the Order of St. Helena, a Monastic Community for Women in the Episcopal Church and is passionate about how the language we use for God and humanity impacts our view and understanding of both. She has been diligent about introducing and praying the proposed trial liturgies (Eucharistic Prayers A, B, and D expansive language 2018 revisions) with her congregation believing that we can only make decisions about prayers and possible prayer book revision if we have faithfully prayed what is proposed. Gaelyn is also on staff for the Wild Goose Festival where she handles administration, finance, and worship and is part of the team who visions and dreams each festival into reality.



**The Rev. Dr. Marshall A. Jolly** serves as rector of Grace Episcopal Church in Morganton. In the wider church and community, he serves as volunteer chaplain at UNC Health Blue Ridge Hospital, as board secretary of the Valle Crucis Conference Center, as a member of the North Carolina Supreme Court's Faith & Justice Alliance Steering Committee, as a member of the Standing Committee in the Diocese of Western North Carolina, and he has also served as a Deputy or Alternate Deputy to the 78th, 79th, and 80th General Conventions of the Episcopal Church.



**The Rev. Deacon Kristi Neal** (she/her/hers) grew up in Marion, North Carolina. Kristi was confirmed at St. Luke's Boone in 1996 after growing up in the Presbyterian Church. She was ordained to the diaconate in 2006 and after a year at St. Luke's Asheville, she has served at St. James, Black Mountain. She was honored to serve as the Archdeacon of the Diocese of WNC from 2011-2019. She was recognized by the Association of Episcopal Deacons in the tradition of St. Stephen in 2019 and received the Bishop's award at Diocesan Convention the same year. She was a mentor to deacons around the country for the Seminary of the Southwest continuing education program from 2019-2022. Kristi has served on the Commission on Ministry, the Human, Hurt and Hope committee, and three times as deputy to the General Convention of the Episcopal Church. She has served on the Environmental

Stewardship and Care of Creation Committee for General Convention since 2014. Kristi's diaconal ministry is in advocacy primarily for children and public education. She mentored a Sacred Ground group at St. James in the spring of 2022 and is an advocate for this program which fills in the gaps of the United States History taught in public schools. Sacred Ground also makes participants go deep into their own hearts to do the inner work around racism.



**The Rev. Dr. Scott White** is the Rector of Trinity Church in Asheville. He attended the General Theological Seminary in New York, where he earned his Master of Divinity, and the Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, where he earned a Doctor of Ministry in Ministry and Congregational Development. Scott has served in congregations both small and large, all urban, some rural, in the Diocese of North Carolina. He served on Diocesan Council, the Bishop's Pastoral Response team, and several other Diocesan roles there. Scott is familiar with and fascinated by the changing dynamics of the church and has led workshops in appreciative leadership, shepherding both congregations and clergy navigating the terrain of church development in uncertain times. During COVID, he became credentialed in coaching and partners with communities and clergy trying to figure church out in

a sometimes confusing world. Scott was deeply involved in building ecumenical and cross-congregational relationships with communities of color in Eastern North Carolina. He has helped create a collaborative of churches and clergy in downtown Asheville where congregations work together to address homelessness, hunger, and exclusion. Scott serves as Conference Leader of CREDO, a program of the Church Pension Fund where the fund provides the clergy of the church time away to examine the core areas of their life and ministry, including Spirituality, Finances, Health, and Vocation. Scott served as a Deputy to the 2022 General Convention on behalf of our diocese. He would be honored to do so again in the upcoming convention in 2024.

**Nominees for Trustees – no nominees**

**Clergy Nominees for University of the South – no nominees**